



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Subrata Mokerji Group Art Unit: 1775
Serial No.: 10/073,527 Examiner: Andrew Piziali
Filing Date: February 11, 2002 Docket No.: MDYNE/Z002
Title: Zirconium Nitride Coating Having A Top Layer Thereon
(formerly) 500-3013-U

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the First Office Action dated December 3, 2003, Applicant herein files a response, including amendments to the claims. As discussed below, Applicant spoke with Examiner Piziali on March 12, 2004, regarding the outstanding Office Action. Applicant appreciates Examiner Piziali's helpfulness with regard to this matter. As explained below, a conclusion was reached regarding the allowance of all claims subject to the amendments presented herein.

The outstanding Office Action indicates a shortened statutory period for reply of three months (i.e. reply by March 3, 2004). Therefore, Applicant hereby requests a one-month extension of time in which to file this response and amendment. The petition and fee for extension is enclosed herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments and allow all claims as discussed.



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that these papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date below and in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Response, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

March 24, 2004
Date of Deposit

Pat Simpson
(Typed or Printed Name)
Pat Simpson
(Signature)

Documents deposited:

1. Response and Amendment to First Office Action (8 pages);
2. Extension of time and check for \$110.00